

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /066 W

----- 070089

R 021313Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8642

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BIEURT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1903

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TS IZ US

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN DEMARCHE TO IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN
RE RESUMPTION U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS

REF: (A) TUNIS 1394; (B) TUNIS 1426

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI INFORMED ME APRIL 1 THAT HE HAD
INDEED RAISED SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE RESUMPTION U.S.-IRAQI
RELATIONS WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN WHEN LATTER VISITED TUNIS
EARLY LAST MONTH. HUSSEIN HAD RESPONDED THAT THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE AS LONG AS U.S. ACTIVELY SUPPORTS KURDS. WHEN
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CHATTI INDICATED THAT HIS INFORMATION IS THAT U.S. IS NOT

RPT NOT SUPPORTING KURDS, HUSSEIN REPLIED THAT WHILE U.S. MAY NOT BE DOING SO DIRECTLY, INDIRECT SUPPORT FROM U.S. IS REACHING KURDS IN FORM OF AMERICAN ARMS SUPPLIED BY IRAN. NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO CHATTI, HUSSEIN SAID THAT HE WOULD KEEP ON OPEN MIND.

2. CHATTI SAID THAT DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO BAGHDAD (HE DEPARTED EVENING APRIL 1) HE WOULD AGAIN DISCUSS MATTER.

3. COMMENT: CHATTI' DEMARCHE WAS AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND REFLECTS BOTH TUNISIA'S DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO U.S. (ON ASSUMPTION USG WOULD WELCOME MORE ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH BAGHDAD BAATHIST REGIME) AND KUDOS WHICH WOULD FLOW TO GOT FROM ROLE AS SUCCESSFUL INTERMEDIARY. RE LATTER, TUNISIANS ARE NO DOUBT SOMEWHAT ENVIOUS OF COUP PULLED OFF BY ALGIERS IN RECONCILING IRAQ AND IRAN.
SEELYE

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